

REMARKS

I. Status Summary

Claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. Claim 1 has been amended to place the claim in better method claim format and to include the features of Claims 6 and 7. Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled. New Claim 11 has been added and includes the features of original Claims 1 and 8. Therefore, upon entry of this Amendment, Claims 1-5 and 8-11 will be pending. No new matter has been introduced by the present amendment. Reconsideration of the application as amended and based on the arguments set forth hereinbelow is respectfully requested.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5, 9, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,203,613 to Gates et al. (hereinafter, "Gates"). The Examiner has rejected Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by Gates in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,800,521 to Marsh. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicants note that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. (Official Action, page 6.) Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the features of Claims 6 and 7 in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion

for obtaining allowance of Claim 1. Therefore, applicants submit that Claim 1 should be patentable over the cited references.

Claims 6 and 7 have been canceled. Claims 2-5 and 8-10 depend from amended Claim 1. Therefore, for the reasons provided above, applicants submit that Claims 2-5 and 8-10 should be patentable over the cited reference and should be allowed.

New Claim 11 includes the features of original Claim 1 and dependent Claim 8. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 11 should be patentable over the cited references.

III. Allowable Claims

As noted above, the Examiner has indicated that Claims 7 and 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claim. (Official Action, page 6.) As stated above, applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the features of Claims 6 and 7. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that Claim 1 should now be formally allowed.

In addition, applicants have added new Claim 11 including the features recited in original Claims 1 and 8. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that new Claim 11 should now be formally allowed.

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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in proper condition for allowance, and an early notice to such effect is earnestly solicited.

If any small matter should remain outstanding after the Patent Examiner has had an opportunity to review the above Remarks, the Patent Examiner is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned patent attorney in order to resolve these matters and avoid the issuance of another Official Action.

DEPOSIT ACCOUNT

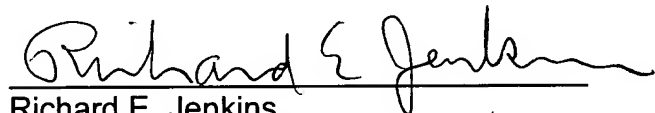
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with the filing of this correspondence to Deposit Account No. 50-0426.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKINS, WILSON & TAYLOR, P.A.

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REJ/BJO/gwc

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